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GENERAL

1. British views on Chinese Communist recognition--UK Foreign Secretary Bevin at the 10 November Council of Ministers meeting informed Secretary Acheson that the British are currently giving careful attention to the matter of recognizing the Chinese Communist regime. Bevin said that recognition must be accorded sooner or later, but certainly not before the General Assembly had disposed of the Chinese case or the Dutch had transferred sovereignty to the Indonesians. Bevin also said that Australia "did not want" recognition before the 10 December Australian elections. At the same meeting, French Foreign Minister Schuman expressed his concern over the impact on Indochina of the Chinese Communist advance and urged some immediate gesture by the US and UK in support of French policy and the Bao Dai regime. Bevin replied that the British would be willing to take steps in this direction only after the French themselves had taken further action.

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